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Mandated areas

Information received from the United Nations system

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Summary

The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in response to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that fall within the mandate of UNITAR, including information-gathering, support for Forum members, communications and interactions within the United Nations system, training and capacity-building, conflict resolution and peace-building, data collection and human rights.

* E/C.19/2003/1.

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I. Information-gathering from the United Nations system

> "Provide information to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its second session on their activities relating to indigenous peoples"[1]

1. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources.

2. UNITAR manages a number of programmes, and the training activities that deal directly with indigenous peoples' representatives are part of the programme in peacemaking and preventive diplomacy.

UNITAR programme in peacemaking and preventive diplomacy

3. The UNITAR programme in peacemaking and preventive diplomacy was initiated in 1993 to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nation's efforts in conflict prevention and resolution. Since then, the programme has expanded to provide a range of research and training involving mid- and senior-level United Nations staff, diplomats, minority and indigenous peoples' representatives, and civil society and military personnel.

Training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peace-building capacities of minority and indigenous peoples' representatives

4. Based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives at consultations in Geneva and the recommendations of several special rapporteurs, a programme was developed to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to key representatives of minority and indigenous peoples. The programme adopts a problem-solving negotiation approach to strengthen participants' capacity to more effectively negotiate to have their needs met, and at the same time promote constructive relationships between members of their communities and those in the dominant community. Indigenous and minority experts, as well as other specialists, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and representatives of regional organizations, serve as resource persons for the training programme. The international training programme is conducted annually, concurrently with meetings of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which are held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. A regional training programme is also conducted in a different part of the world each year.

5. The first international programme, which was held in August 2000 in Geneva, was enthusiastically received by minority and indigenous peoples' representatives, who strongly encouraged that the programme be held annually, both in Geneva and at the regional level, to enable their colleagues around the world the opportunity to strengthen their skills in negotiation and the peaceful resolution of conflict. A second Geneva training programme was held in 2001. The 2003 international programme is similarly being planned concurrently with the meeting of the Working

Group on Indigenous Populations. The Geneva programme works with the United Nations Volunteers and other organizations to identify individuals participating in the Working Group who could best contribute to and benefit from the training programme, which is conducted in English.

6. The first UNITAR regional training programme to enhance the conflict resolution and peace-building capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives of the Americas, was held in Mexico City in December 2001; the training was conducted in Spanish and English. The next regional training programme is planned for spring 2003 in the Asia and Pacific region.

7. UNITAR held a seminar in New York from 6 to 10 May 2002 for members of the Forum. The seminar had been requested by indigenous members of the Forum who had participated in previous UNITAR training programmes as participants, resource persons or funders, and 13 of the 15 appointed members of the Forum participated. The seminar helped prepare members for their important mandate and the historic first session of the Forum. Representatives of 14 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and of the United Nations Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, engaged in briefing and dialogue sessions with the members.

8. The programme has been funded by the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. UNITAR receives no funding from the regular United Nations budget and must raise all of the funding for its programmes and staff from Governments and foundations.

II. Communications/interactions with United Nations agencies

> "To improve communications and interactions with United Nations agencies, the Forum requests that the United Nations system establish Internet access, including a web site, for the use of members of the Forum"[2]

9. Once the web page is established, UNITAR will link its web page on training activities involving indigenous peoples to the Forum web page.

> "Provide, in particular United Nations country offices, as required and as available, facilities for and services to members of the Forum in their respective area of residence and while on official missions"[3]

10. Although UNITAR has no country offices, the UNITAR Hiroshima Programmes office is expected to open in spring 2003 in Hiroshima. Forum members who are on mission in the area would be welcome to use those facilities.

> "Fund a programme of visits for members of the Forum to participate in relevant meetings, as agreed to by the members"[4]

11. Although UNITAR does not have funds for meetings outside of its activities related to indigenous peoples, members of the Forum are invited to serve as resource persons for the UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peace-building capacities of minority and indigenous peoples' representatives. The two indigenous members of the Forum from the Asia and Pacific region have been invited to hold a dialogue session as well as speak on their respective substantive areas (health and the environment) at the Asia and Pacific regional training

programme planned for spring 2003. A Forum member will similarly be invited to address all future training programmes.

III. Additional meetings

> "The Forum requests the United Nations system to organize regional consultations over the next three years between United Nations agencies, Governments, indigenous peoples and members of the Forum"[5]

12. As noted above, although UNITAR does not have separate funds to contribute to Members attending regional meetings, at all future UNITAR regional training programmes with indigenous peoples, a member or members of the Forum from that region will be invited to serve as resource persons and hold dialogue sessions on key issues and priorities. Similarly, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples' is always invited to serve as a resource person and has contributed to every UNITAR programme and meeting related to indigenous peoples since his appointment.

IV. Data collection

> "The Forum invites United Nations system organizations, including field offices, as well as special rapporteurs and States, to begin to disaggregate data on indigenous peoples generally and indigenous woman and children specifically in two categories, covering (i) programmes and services impacting indigenous peoples, and (ii) fiscal allocations for indigenous people's programmes and services, and to transmit that data to the Forum on an annual basis"[6]

13. Data on the gender of indigenous participants to date in UNITAR training programmes and seminars has been provided to the secretariat.

V. Health and the United Nations system

14. The Forum member from the Pacific region, who has a substantive focus on the issue of health, has been invited to address participants in a UNITAR training programme to be held in the Asia and Pacific region in spring 2003.

VI. Human rights

> "The Forum requests appropriate regional organizations to provide it with information on how indigenous issues have been addressed in their respective mechanisms for the protection of human rights"[7]

15. Regional organization members are invited to serve as resource persons in UNITAR training programmes for indigenous peoples' representatives to look at mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and to promote dialogue between States and indigenous peoples. To date, representatives of the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the

OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights have participated. A counsellor of the Greenland Home Rule Government also conducted a session on a subregional organization, on the theme, "The Arctic Council and its permanent participants: securing indigenous participation in regional intergovernmental cooperation between States".

> "The Forum proposes the organization of a technical seminar with members of the Forum, the members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples in order to ensure that those United Nations bodies can efficiently interface in their undertaking and to avoid duplication"[8]

16. To complement any technical seminar that is organized as recommended above, the Special Rapporteur has been and Forum members will be invited to all future UNITAR training programmes for indigenous peoples' representatives. The Special Rapporteur and Forum members held a dialogue session at the seminar held for members of the Forum in 2002, and will have regular opportunities for interaction at future training programmes.

> "The Forum requests the Secretary-General to provide necessary financial assistance to two members of the Forum to participate in the twentieth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration"[9]

17. Although UNITAR held a Forum in 2002 in lieu of the annual Geneva training programme, Forum members who attend future meetings of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations will be invited to serve as resource persons to address the UNITAR international training programme for minority and indigenous peoples' representatives, which is held immediately after the meeting of the Working Group in Geneva. Their accommodation and meals would be covered for the extension of their stay in Geneva after the Working Group meeting.

> "The Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize activities with indigenous peoples in Africa and Asia with a view to providing international and regional human rights training for indigenous peoples"[10]

18. UNITAR is complementing the human rights training programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, through its international and regional training programmes on conflict prevention and peace-building. UNITAR training programmes, while focusing primarily on conflict analysis and interest-based negotiation, also consider human rights mechanisms and conventions relating to indigenous peoples, and provide relevant information for participants who have primarily used a rights-based approach to negotiation. The UNITAR regional training programme will be held in Asia in 2003 and in Africa in 2004.

VII. Environment

19. The Forum member from Asia, whose substantive focus is on the environment, has been invited to address participants in a UNITAR training programme to be held in the Asia and Pacific region in spring 2003. Such programmes include one or two sessions on conflict and development, dealing with land and resource issues since those are key issues of conflict faced by indigenous peoples and States.

VIII. Children and youth

20. Forum members who serve as resource persons for UNITAR annual regional and international training programmes for indigenous peoples will be invited to engage participants in a dialogue on the situation of indigenous children and youth and to solicit recommendations for action at the local, regional and international levels.

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21. UNITAR looks forward to ongoing collaboration with the members of the Forum and its secretariat to support this important mandate.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 23* (E/2002/43/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. B, para. 3 (a).

[2] Ibid., para. 4 (a).

[3] Ibid., para. 4 (b).

[4] Ibid., para. 4 (d).

[5] Ibid., para. 5.

[6] Ibid., para. 6 (a).

[7] Ibid., para. 16.

[8] Ibid., para. 17.

[9] Ibid., para. 21.

[10] Ibid., para. 24 (a).